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INTER-KOREAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

EGYPT SUPPORTS KOREAN UNITY--Pyongyang--Husni Mubarak, speaking at a banquet given in his honor by DPRK Vice President Pak Cho-yong [title and name as published], said that the restoration of the Palestinian people's right is just as important as regaining the Egyptian territories and that solving the Palestinian problem is a sine qua non for the establishment of peace. Husni Mubarak said that Egypt supports Korean unity on the basis of free choice, which is a right of the Korean people who fought with dignity. You have honestly and sincerely supported Egypt and helped it by all material and political means, thus confirming the unity of the Third World peoples and nonalignment. Egypt supports your playing this role in order to preserve this movement. In his speech the DPRK vice president declared that the Korean and Egyptian peoples are linked by strong ties of friendship and that the Korean people are glad at the successes being achieved by the Egyptian people under President al-Sadat's leadership. Husni Mubarak arrived in the Korean capital on Thursday afternoon from Beijing. Tomorrow, Friday, he will begin talks with the Korean president. On Sunday he will leave Korea for San Francisco. [Excerpt] [LD151009 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jan 80 p 1 LD]

CSO: 4802

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

SEOUL PAPER COMMENTS ON POLITICIANS' CONSTITUTION DRAFTS

SK160430 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 16 Jan 80 p 2 SK

[Editorial: "Constitutional Revision"]

[Text] Some political figures are reportedly talking about the initiative in pushing the work to rewrite the present constitution without and before forwarding any faithful revision as if only they are fully responsible for the amendment work. We do not want to argue pros and cons with regard to such talks, but we cannot but note such a thought or attitude as an element undesirable for political development under stability.

The principle is that constitution is not written by established power but by the power to be established. In addition, we remember the remark by a distinguished scholar that the opinion of the people is superior to that of their representatives.

The ideology of democracy is that the people should take the initiative in amending the constitution and this basic right of the people is not transferable. The late Cho Pyong-ok, one of the political leaders the nation has produced, asserted that if the people have no spirit of protecting the constitution, the basic law is of no use however many times it might be rewritten.

We believe that the primary condition for awakening the principle spirit of protecting the constitution is to allow as wide participation of the people as possible in revising the constitution.

In this respect, it is worthless and of little importance to talk about the initiative by certain political leaders in pushing the constitution amendment work. Now is not the time to give priority, in the course of rewriting the constitution, to one's prestige or to self-interest.

Coordination in advance, cooperation and joint work are the words that should appear at a time when many authoritative, faithful drafts are being forwarded for deliberation.

Recently several public hearings have been held and polls have also been conducted with regard to constitutional amendment. Public hearings are reportedly planned in six provincial cities under the auspices of the special National Assembly Committee organized to carry out the constitution revision. But many questions are raised by the people whether speakers who stood at the rostrum of recent public hearings really represented all walks of life without bias under the influence of certain groups or persons. Some speakers may not have been selected by the organizations concerned. In some cases, speakers who had been recommended by the organizations may have been ignored.

Despite this biased or irrational selection of speakers, if the opinions of all walks of life in every province and city throughout the nation are said to have been reflected and if the responsible authorities try to shirk their responsibility, there might be some unexpected strong repulsion.

No one will accept such a situation as a wise way and we do hope and expect not to witness such a possibility.

A public hearing is in principle designed to produce tangible results through active questions and answers between speakers and the panels. But the recent public hearings were reportedly characterized mainly by speeches as in an oratorical meeting, in which eloquence was sought amidst storms of applause.

Regrettably, it is also reported that some chairmen and some representatives of political parties have stressed, from the beginning, the directions of the hearings.

The procedure of democratic constitutional amendment should be conducted in such a way as to be acceptable to an absolute majority of the people, and the contents of the new constitution should be worked out with broad reflection of the opinions of the people.

CSO: 4120

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

REPORTERS HOLD PANEL DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL ISSUES

Seoul THE TONGA ILBO in Korean 1 Jan 80 pp 4-5

[Seoul U.S. Embassy translation]

[Summary] According to President Ch'oe Kyu-ha's timetable, it will take about 1 year to rewrite the present Constitution. But quite a few think this is too long, citing the fact that it took the U.S. constitutional convention no more than 87 days to frame the written Constitution. Besides, we are now revising the constitution which already exists.

The work period for constitutional revision was set for 1 year. This is also in agreement with the U.S. interest in that the U.S. hopes for the maintenance of the status quo until after the November presidential election is over.

Some also say that the constitutional revision work should be made not in an abnormal state of martial law, but in a normal state.

Some opposition leaders out of office say that the exclusive constitutional revision work by the parliament alone is not desirable, though they tentatively approve the NDP's version.

Junior DRP members have proposed a housecleaning drive and making public the assets of public office-holders. But it is necessary to pay attention to the fact that in his year-end statement, Martial Law Commander Yi Hui-song said, "political development should be achieved by patriotic politicians with good sense."

Some DRP members are doubtful whether the next president should be elected by direct popular vote. Some influential party executives say, "It is going to be hopeless if the elections should be carried from the viewpoint of the NDP."

Another source of anguish for DRP President Kim Chong-p'il is that he scarcely has any personages hailing from the Yongnam and Honam areas to assume the posts of the Assembly speaker and the party's chairmanship.

This is well displayed by the fact that the vacancy of the Assembly speakership has not been filled yet, and that he still holds the party's chairmanship.

There are some who point to the recent move to form a new party by members of the National Conference for Unification. It will be big trouble for DRP President Kim if the anti-Kim faction members should join the new party.

It is said that the NDP may hold a national convention soon. Public attention is focused on who will be the next leader of it.

It might be a matter of concern when the national convention is going to be held. But more interesting will be the question of how the NPD will pick its presidential candidate.

Those close to NPD President Kim Yong-sam say that the national convention or a convention to nominate the party's presidential candidate should be held as soon as the constitutional amendment proposed is finalized. But others assert that to make it fair, some more time should be allowed after the "lift of the political ban."

Another serious problem lies in how the NPD will establish its relations with those opposition leaders out of office. Depending on how the NPD will determine the scope of such personages to be admitted into it, the possibility for the emergence of a new party cannot be totally ruled out.

Popular attention is also focused on the fairness of the government's election management. According to the timetable set by President Ch'oe, there will not be any elections this year. But the problem is whether the government will indeed be neutral, fair and impartial in the preparations for elections.

Foreign Ministry authorities say that some of their burden created by the power structure of the nation in our relations with the U.S., Japan and friendly nations in Europe has been dispelled. Whether diplomatic normalization can be maintained depends on the implementation of democratization work.

CSO: 4108

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

KOREA PUBLIC LAW SOCIETY MEMBERS FAVOR PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM

Seoul THE TONGA ILBO in Korean 4 Jan 80 p 3

[Seoul U.S. Embassy translation]

[Summary] According to a survey conducted by the TONGA ILBO, more than two-thirds of the members of the Korea Public Law Society favor the presidential system as the form of government, with a direct popular vote. They support the unicameral system formed by parliamentary members, each one elected from each minor electoral district.

This survey was conducted by subjecting all members of the Society (president, Mun Ileng-chu) to it. Of all the respondents, 67.1 percent favored the presidential system. As for the presidential election method, 90.8 percent favored election by direct popular vote.

On the office term of the President, 81.6 percent were in favor of a 4-year term (67.1 percent) on a 5-year term, and permitting a president to be reelected only once. The remaining 18.4 percent were for a single term of office of 5 to 6 years.

The predominant opinion among the members was that the president's authority should be reduced and restrained (81.6 percent); 53.3 percent supported that a presidential emergency decree should be confined to a legal effect and not to any constitutional effect, and 29.3 percent urged that only his authority to issue emergency decree on financial matters be recognized, while 4 percent said that the president's authority to issue an emergency decree is "absolutely unnecessary." On whether or not to have a vice president, 55.3 percent said that it is "unnecessary."

On the future parliament, a unicameral system was supported by 90.8 percent, with members elected one each from each minor electoral district (68.4 percent) for an office term of 4 years (75.0 percent).

On the parliamentary elections, the number of respondents who favored the election of two lawmakers from each electoral district barely accounted for 2.6 percent of the total. On the other hand, those in favor of medium

electoral districts (to elect 3 to 5 members from each district) or provincial major electoral district system accounted for 28.9 percent.

As for independent candidates in National Assembly elections, 84 percent said that they are in favor of the system. As to the Assembly's authority on auditing the government, 31.6 percent favored the revival of the system across the board, and 35.5 percent supported the revival of the audit system only on central government offices, and 28.9 percent said that the present parliamentary investigation system should be maintained.

A considerable number of its members expressed their affirmative views toward the participation in political parties by labor union members (53.9 percent), journalists (48.7 percent), bankers (38.2 percent), teachers and professors (35.5 percent) and college students (34.2 percent).

As for the legal voting age, 59.2 percent supported the present 20 years old, but 25 percent favored 18 years old and 15.8 percent 19 years old. On political funds. 51.3 percent favored the public management system of financing political funds from the National Treasury.

In connection with the independence of the Judiciary, 68.4 percent said that the Chief Justice should be elected by a recommending college of justices (68.4 percent) or by a plenary meeting of justices and judges (18.6 percent). On the basic civil rights, 97.4 percent said that the habeas corpus system should be revived.

CSO: 4108

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

SURVEY SHOWS PEOPLE WANT DEMOCRATIZATION, HUMAN RIGHTS

Seoul THE TONGA ILBO in Korean 1 Jan 80 p 14

[Seoul U.S. Embassy translation]

[Article: "Enhancement of Human Rights and Freedom Most Important in 1980's"]

[Summary] Most Korean people think that what is most important in political development in the 1980's will be the enhancement of human rights and freedom. In other words, even at the cost of slowing down economic growth and delaying the pace in the improvement of the nation's living standards, it is desirable to promote democratization allowing popular participation in politics through free elections and increasing human rights.

This has been disclosed by an analysis of the recent survey conducted by the Social Science Research Institution (president, Prof. Yi Hong-ku) of Seoul National University at the request of the Tonga Ilbo, on "Awareness Structure of Korean People Looking toward the 1980's."

The majority of the people also say that the prospect is bright for the expansion of freedom and human rights. They also believe that the Korean people now have sufficient capability to enjoy democratic government like that in advanced nations, according to the survey.

They say that it will be better to hold general elections every 4 years. There is also a considerable number of people who wish to see the inauguration of a new party supported by middle-class urban people, intellectuals and workers. Many hold the view, however, that it is still premature to have any reformist political party.

According to this survey, 72.8 percent of the pollees said that democratization is more desirable than economic growth and improvement of income standards. As for the "two most important things" in political development, 23.3 percent of the respondents chose "human rights and freedom." This was followed by the strengthening of security (20.9 percent), the realization of social justice through fair distribution (15.4 percent), the independence of the Legislature and the Judiciary (12.8 percent), and the emergence of a powerful leader (9.6 percent).

On the question whether there should be a new political party formed to give vitality to partisan politics, 43.5 percent of the pollees favored maintaining the "existing parties," while 38.3 percent preferred to see a new political party come into being.

As for the question on "which social strata a political party should win support from," 26.1 percent favored middle-class urban citizens, 21.8 percent workers, 16.7 percent intellectuals, and 12.7 percent farmers.

Expectations placed on the emergence of a new political party were high among people in their 20's and 30's, students and well-educated people in urban areas.

As for the question related to the possibility of a reformist party, 40.9 percent said "premature," while 31.5 percent termed it "desirable" and 25.7 percent said "I do not know." On general elections, the holding of general elections every 4 years was favored by an overwhelming number-- 57.1 percent, while 18.1 percent were for holding elections every five years and 13.4 percent for elections every six years.

On the question related to the relations with north Korea, 39.9 percent said the relations "will be as they are now," while a larger number of respondents said the relations will be "aggravated" (25.3 percent) than those who said the relations will be "improved" (13.3 percent). The number of respondents who said "I do not know" accounted for 19.16 percent, in this question.

According to the survey, the friendly relations with the U.S. and Japan and the ties with the Soviet Union and the PRC are all expected to get better.

CSO: 4108

S. KOREA/POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

BRIEFS

DISCUSSION ON NEW POLICIES--Kyongju, Jan. 20 (HAPTONG)--The Democratic Republican Party (DRP) would open its doors and improve its habitude [as received] in the current political transition period to make it a popular democratic force, a key DRP office holder said today. Rep. Kim Chang-kun, chairman of the DRP policy committee, told a meeting here that his party's basic philosophy was based on a liberal democracy and that democratization was a natural demand in a new era. Kim said his majority party should wisely adapt itself to the new era, reflecting itself on the adverse effects and imbalances caused by a high economic growth in the past. He advised the minority New Democratic Party and democratic forces in opposition to the government to do away with their hardline stances they had shown in the past. [Text] [SK210158 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0054 GMT 21 Jan 80 SK]

KIM CHI-HA'S HEALTH--Tokyo Jan 9 KYODO--Kim Chi Ha, prominent dissident poet in South Korea, is suffering from deteriorating health, a group of Japanese Christians calling for his release says. A group spokesman said Tuesday that Kim transferred to hospital from prison is not given adequate medical treatment for his tuberculosis. "The doctor sees Kim only once in a while and medicine is seldom given," the spokesman said. Kim's family is worried if he can go through this winter, the spokesman added. The devout Catholic serving life imprisonment for violating the country's anti-communist law has been in prison for the past four years. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 9 Jan 80 OW]

CSO: 4120

S. KOREA/ECONOMY

BRIEFS

TIGHT MONEY POLICY IMPACT--The financial situations of businesses have worsened to a serious extent affected by unfavorable conditions at home and abroad such as the tight money policy and oil price increases. Particularly, big businesses, like small businesses, are suffering from acute financial shortages as demand for funds is usually high around this time every year. The big businesses have launched a "total war" to find sources of funds such as banks, short-term finance companies, the stock market and the curb loan market, according to business sources concerned yesterday. Most businesses want to raise funds through the issuance of company debentures in the stock market. However, they face a serious difficulty as demand for the debentures is very low, the sources said. The lion's share of the debentures has been absorbed by investment and trust companies. The companies, however, cannot afford to take over any significant portion of the debentures due to their own financial problems, the sources said. The securities firms which endorse the debentures ask the companies which are trying to sell them to dispose of 50 percent of them on their own, the sources also said. Some of the businesses have to repay the relief funds they received early this year with the money they will obtain through the issuance of debentures. Their financial positions, therefore, will not improve even if they issue debentures, the sources explained. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 79 p 7]

GOVERNMENT-LED RURAL PROJECT--The government-led project to revamp rural community-environments across the country has been completed as scheduled, conspicuously changing living conditions in 550 towns, the Ministry of Home Affairs announced yesterday. The project was carried out with some 9,700 million won in government aid and about 25,500 million won from residents. In these towns, roads were expanded, shops were built in neat shapes and marketplaces were modernized. According to ministry officials, the project had the fundamental purpose of preventing rural community dwellers from moving into populated cities by improving living conditions in rural communities. Farming villages across the country have been transformed vastly under the Saemaul Movement and conditions in big cities have also improved rapidly with sustained economic growth but small towns located between them have changed little, they pointed out. A total of 2,735 areas

of roads have been expanded and 3,663 market buildings revamped during the past year across the country. The ministry project for next year is to revamp 30 "up" and 100 "myon" towns with about 14,500 million won in government aid. Each "up" will be subsidized 150 million won and each "myon" 100 million won under the government project, officials said. Ministry officials added that the project would eventually curb the snowballing population in urban areas. [Text] [Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 79 p 8]

GOVERNMENT FUEL SUPPLY PROGRAM--The government has decided to supply a total of 203 million barrels of oil products and 26.8 million tons of coal next year respectively, according to the Energy & Resources Ministry 31 December. The figures represent an increase of 10 percent and 9.8 percent over 1979. In terms of electric power, generating capacity will be raised by 15 percent to 9,436,000 kilowatts this year from 8,200,000 kilowatts last year. In the meantime, the program envisages the stockpiling of oil products good for 15 days this year and for 60 days by 1984 by expanding storage facilities. In order to secure a stable supply of coal, the ministry has set the production goal at 18.3 million tons, 100,000 tons more than last year, and is projected to import a total of 4.5 million tons of anthracite coal this year. It is particularly noteworthy that under the newly formulated fuel supply plan, the government will secure as much crude oil as possible, while positively encouraging private enterprises to import the commodity to the maximum extent possible this year. [Seoul U.S. Embassy translation] [Text] [Seoul SEOUL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 1 Jan 80 p 1]

CALL FOR WAGE HIKE--The Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) has demanded that starting wages for workers 18 years old and above be raised by 33.8 percent to ₩87,600 from the present ₩65,000 and for workers 28 years old and above by 37.1 percent to ₩192,000, respectively next year. The proposed wage increases were revealed in a set of guidelines made public by the FKTU 26 December for negotiations on wage hikes for FY 1980. The nation's top labor union based its guidelines for wage increases on the principle of guaranteeing the minimum living costs of workers, maintaining the actual value of wages and reducing the difference in wage levels. Workers' minimum living costs as of 21 November 1979 showed a rise of 31-36 percent as compared with those recorded in November 1978, the FKTU asserted. In compliance with the newly established guidelines, the 17 industrial labor unions affiliated with the FKTU are expected to enter negotiations soon with their respective management sides on wage hikes. [Seoul U.S. Embassy translation] [Text] [Seoul THE TONGA ILBO in Korean 26 Dec 79 p 2]

ECONOMIC FORECAST--Seoul Jan 10 HAPDONG-KYODO--Business activities, affected by the repeated oil price hikes and the worldwide recession, will experience a slowdown in the first half of this year, the state-run Korea Development Bank (KDB) predicted Thursday. According to a survey recently conducted by the bank on 866 major mining-manufacturing firms across the country, industrial production is expected to grow by only 3 per cent during the first quarter (January-March period) of this year, far less than the 8 per cent increase reported in the fourth quarter of 1979. Although industrial output is anticipated to rise by 10 per cent during the second quarter (April-June period) of this year, it seems very difficult for the nation to maintain brisk business activities in the year's first half apparently because of the depressed purchasing power caused by the oil price hikes and a short supply of capital, the bank predicted. On sales activities, turnovers of local enterprises will expand by only 2 per cent during the first quarter and by 10 per cent during the second quarter, I said. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 10 Jan 80 OW]

CSO: 4120

S. KOREA/FOREIGN TRADE

BRIEFS

PACIFIC COOPERATIVE BODY--Seoul Jan 10 OP-KYODO--A ranking Korean Foreign Ministry source Thursday said that his government is ready to participate in a Pacific cooperative body of the type both the United States and Japan are separately promoting. Following U.S. Rep. Lester Wolff's proposal Wednesday in Tokyo for establishing a cooperative body of Pacific nations, the source said that Korea has been asked to become an inaugural member in such bodies. He disclosed that when Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin visited the United States last October, he received such a request from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Meanwhile, Kensuke Yanagiya, director general of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian affairs bureau, explained his country's proposal for a Pacific basin cooperation concept at a meeting with his Korean counterpart in Seoul Wednesday, sounding out Korea's interest in supporting Japan's bid for such a body, the source said. Noting that both the United States and Japan are planning separately to establish cooperative bodies to help expand Pacific region trade and economic cooperation, the source said that the Korean Government would participate actively in any such bodies. Fourteen Pacific countries have expressed interest in such cooperative bodies: Korea, Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Peru, Chile and the five member nations of ASEAN. The United States also reportedly hopes mainland China would participate in the bodies, the source added. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 10 Jan 80 OW]

ROK-DENMARK SHIPPING AGREEMENT--Seoul Jan 9 HAPDONG-KYODO--South Korea and Denmark Wednesday concluded a bilateral shipping agreement to increase the loading ration for vessels of the two countries to 40 per cent in the two-way trade. The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin for the Korean Government and Danish Ambassador Ole Philipson for the Government of Denmark. A Foreign Ministry official said the Danish-Korean shipping agreement was the first such bilateral arrangement between the two countries and that similar agreements will be signed with France and Norway within this year. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English no time given 9 Jan 80 OW]

CSO: 4120

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIRST 10 DAYS OF 1980 REPORTED

SK161021 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 16 Jan 80 SK

[Text] Pyongyang January 16 (ICNA)--Proud successes were reported from all fields of the national economy of Korea in the first ten days of January.

The coal production plan for the period under the Ministry of Coal Industry was surpassed with the coal mines across the country giving priority to tunnelling and increasing coal excavation.

The Anju, Kowon and Sunchon district coal mining complexes and the coal mines under the western coal industrial bureau topped their ten-day target of coal production by 10 to 26 per cent.

In that period, the workers of mining industry carried out the monthly pit construction plan at 43.2 per cent and are effecting new innovations in the production of iron and non-ferrous metal ores.

The power industry fully meets the growing demands for power by overfulfilling the power production targets.

By January 10, the Ministry of Metal Industry had fulfilled its ore production target for the first month at 40 per cent and markedly increased the output of steel and rolled steel.

In the first days fishing of the new year, the fishermen chalked up the record of above 35,000 tons. They went beyond the fishing target for the first ten days by more than 70 per cent.

Good results were also registered in the building materials industry.

The timber production plan was surpassed by far in forestry.

The fertilizer factories also boosted production to supply to the countryside more chemical fertilizers than in the same period last year.

The machine building plants and light industrial factories are also steadily increasing production. Meanwhile, the transport workers are carrying freight in time to all domains of the national economy by improving the organisation of transport and carrying through the policy of three transport methods.

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

MEETINGS HELD IN DPRK TO DELIVER LETTER TO YOUNG FARMERS

SK180138 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2200 GMT 14 Jan 80 SK

[Excerpts] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has sent a letter of appreciation to youth sub-work team members who advanced to socialist rural areas and contributed to implementation of the party's agricultural policy. In his letter of appreciation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expressed thanks to the sub-work team youths for resolving to struggle with dedication for the construction of socialist rural areas and for having advanced as a group to the rural areas from middle and high schools, thus successfully contributing to implementation of the party's agricultural policy.

In his letter of appreciation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that sub-work team youths had brought about a great innovation in agricultural production by their endeavor to fulfill the intentions of the party and the requirements of the chuche farming method, clearly proving through their struggle that they could attain great success in farming if they worked in accordance with party instructions, and that they successfully displayed noble communist character of the new generation youth who struggled and devoted everything to the cause for the party, for the revolution, for the fatherland and for the people.

In his letter of appreciation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song said that youth sub-work team members are the new masters who will have responsibility for the future of the socialist rural area of our country. He urged them not to be complacent about the achievements they have attained but to struggle more actively to bring about innovation in all sectors of agricultural production so as to build a communist rural area.

Meetings have been held at various localities to deliver the letter of appreciation from the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to many youth sub-work teams and to youth work team members. They include the youth sub-work team of the first work team of the Yongsan cooperative farm, the Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang; the youth sub-work team of the second work team of the Ipsok cooperative farm, Mundok County, South Pyongan Province; the youth sub-work team of the Sakju-up cooperative farm, Sakju County, North Pyongan Province; the youth sub-work team of the Hwasan

cooperative farm, Sinchon County, South Hwanghae Province; the youth tobacco sub-work team of the Chonggye cooperative farm, Pongsan County, North Hwanghae Province; the youth sub-work team of the Anch'an cooperative farm, Sijung County, Chagang Province; the youth tobacco sub-work team of the Singyong cooperative farm, Hamju County, South Hamgyong Province; the youth tobacco sub-work team members of the first work team of Chongguk cooperative farm, Hoeryong County, North Hamgyong Province; the youth sub-work team of the first work team of Taepyong cooperative farm, Pochon County, Yanggang Province; the youth sub-work team of the second work team of the Kukhoe cooperative farm, Chonmae County, Kangwon Province; the youth vegetable sub-work team of Chikha cooperative farm, Chongam District, Chongjin; and the youth sub-work team of the Kongdong cooperative farm, Panmun County, Kaesong.

The meetings adopted a letter of pledge to the great leader Kim Il-song.

CSO: 4108

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

THAIS DESCRIBE VISIT TO NORTH KOREAN COOPERATIVE

Bangkok SIAM RATH in Thai 2 Oct 79 p 7

[Article by Sombat Phukan: "Notes From Piang Yang: Piang Yang Does Not Need to Have a Year of the Farmer"]

[Excerpt] I feel I must record some of the things about the agricultural situation that I saw and heard in North Korea.

To start, it must first be emphasized that I really did see and hear the things to be discussed because the things to be mentioned here originated from two important things: from pictures that I saw and from things that I heard people say. They did not originate from studies done by myself or from assessments of results from studies done by scholars. Because of this, any single thing that I saw or heard may or may not be true (depending on what should or should not be true); each person is free to decide for himself. I do not insist or require that people believe in any of these things.

I will start with something that I saw. As I said above, during the entire 10 days that I spent traveling in North Korea, I was rather impressed by the abundance of their agricultural crops because I did not expect to see, in almost every region we went, fields filled with budding and fruit-laden vegetables, fruits, rice, corn, millet and so on.

After seeing this I could not stop asking how they did this. We should try to obtain similar results in Thailand.

Yes. Beginning now, E w e sudang, God will listen like this.

At the beginning, they said that "North Korea is a socialist country" -- something that I knew to be true. I had known this since the time I attended Wat Chinorot High School in Bangkok and when I arrived here they told me this several times. But what about the future? "Since the country is a socialist country, everything belongs to the state. Even the land belongs to the state. And since the state is the sole owner of the land, it has the right to manage everything concerning the land and does not have to bother about or waste time over the ownership rights of this or that person.

"And since the state feels that the cooperative farm system will solve the farmers' problems, it has made arrangements to build cooperative farms in suitable areas.

"With regard to this, we are different from China," he explained after I suddenly interjected that I thought they used the same system as the Chinese. "We do not use the commune system because we are not communists," he said using this opportunity to remind me of this. "We are socialists. In our present situation, our president has considered things carefully and feels that the cooperative farm system is the most appropriate for our country. We have, therefore, used this system up to now.

"In this system, the cooperatives will be the managers of the land in place of the state and all the farmers will be cooperative members." He stopped speaking at a moment when I had begun to think that, except for cooperatives being the managers of the land, this principle is not too different from similar things done in our country (sometimes successfully, sometimes not). "And with the help of the state, through the cooperatives, the cooperatives hold cooperative member conferences and stipulate who should plant what and how much each year.

"As for the state, it started by providing electricity to all the farm villages. Now, each of our peasant families has electricity," he repeated proudly. "The electricity provided to the peasants amounts to 1 billion kilowatt hours per year. This does not refer only to ease of life in the family but also to being useful in agriculture or animal husbandry. For example, the electricity used to operate the irrigation equipment, sprinklers (a sprinkler in the form of a pipe that sprays water out all around), seed sprouters used during the cold season and so on is a

benefit provided by the state for the fields." I sat listening, engrossed in what he was saying. I thought of a time when I had observed a changing monetary situation and had found places where the people wanted electricity very much no matter what the cost.

"As for the cooperatives, they provide seed, fertilizer and techniques concerning developing the land and developing planting techniques for agriculture. And finally, the cooperatives are responsible for selling the various products of the cooperative members to the state and taking care of various necessary matters for all the cooperative members.

I thought of Mr Sot Kuramarohit. Until he died, Mr Sot dreamed only about cooperatives being the only escape for farmers. During his lifetime, his dream never became a reality for him. I felt sorry for him at that time and thought of him and felt even more sorry for him when I came and heard the North Korean official talk about the present cooperatives.

"Within these cooperative units, we have various subordinate service units that serve the cooperative members. For example there are child care centers for the children of the peasants." I had an opportunity to see that these child care centers are like nursery schools that accept and look after children when parents have to work. In the communist or socialist systems, these are very important because they will start to sow in the children the ideals desired by the state beginning when the children are still very young. Young children 3 and 4 years old sing songs and dance for visitors but they do not sing any [common] nursery songs. Instead they sing songs praising the cooperative and the ideals [of the state] and various songs that greatly hurt the feelings of right-wing people.

"Besides this, we have hospitals, trade units, social credit units and units that distribute goods or give free assistance depending on the rights of the cooperative members."

I have a rough knowledge of English, which was adequate for understanding people's questions and answers. These cooperative members do not have to buy rice or any of the products produced by the cooperative farms since each cooperative member has the right to obtain these things free in this system.

For example, suppose a farmer (a cooperative member) produces 100 units in 1 year. He must allocate these products as follows: approximately (I must admit I am not certain about the exact figures) 10 percent must be sent to the state as the main obligation to the country, or this can be thought of as payment for the fertilizer, water and electricity provided by the state; 20 percent must be reserved as each cooperative's portion that may be used as seed [for future planting] or something similar; 40 percent can be sold to the state, which will buy it and distribute it to people, sell it abroad, or do what it wants with it. The state will pay this money to the cooperatives and the cooperatives will pay the producers, meaning the farmers, on a proportional basis. As for the remaining 30 percent, it will be kept as food for the cooperative members in the cooperatives to use together.

Thus, the North Korean official boasted that farmers in his country have a good standard of living and that the farmers have houses of the older type and modern flats (depending on what the person wanted). The people have electricity, radios and televisions, which they manage to buy by saving money that they earn by selling goods. Their children attend school and schools are free. There are hospitals. As for clothing or luxury items (which there are very few of), whoever has a need can buy such things themselves without restriction.

I observed that their prosperity in agriculture depended to a great extent on one thing -- a good irrigation system. Water flows into their fields everywhere and sometimes it does not follow the irrigation canals only as we are used to seeing, because in some villages, the water for irrigating their fields flows through large pipes that the cooperatives in certain places have built with the help of the state.

North Korea has several reservoirs that are used as reservoirs only, with no thought given to electricity. In some places, they have taken water from the rivers at the base of the hills, stored it on top of the hills and dug tunnels through the hills for pipes so the water can flow down the other side of the hill so it can be used for agriculture.

11943
CSO: 4207

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

MINING INDUSTRY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE IN JANUARY 1980

SK211026 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 21 Jan 80 SK

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)--The workers in the domain of the mining industry who opened up a bright prospect by carrying out the monthly pit construction plan at 43.2 per cent in the first ten days of the new year are continuously effecting fresh innovations.

The mines in Yanggang Province, a leading mineral producer of the nation, are surpassing their daily quotas of nonferrous metal ore production by 20 per cent, while securing large quantities of reserves for the production of ores with high mineral content rate. The Hyesan youth mine, having opened more than 10 cutting faces recently, is trebling its daily production quotas with the determination to top the yearly assignments of mineral production three times. The Kapsan mine carried out the monthly plan at 48.5 per cent in the first ten days. The mine is now overfulfilling the daily production plans by 40 per cent, doubling the tunnelling speed.

Tunnelling and ore cutting plans are being surpassed by far at the Unhung mine which has raised the tunnelling tempo per cutting face 2.8 times [words indistinct] the August mine.

The Hyesan District mining complex is pushing ahead with geological prospecting in and around large promising mines.

The mines in Kangwon Province are fulfilling their daily tunnelling plans at over 150 per cent. In particular, the Sinpung apatite mine introduced a new technique to overshoot the daily tunnelling plan more than two times. Production has been brought up to a high level at the Changdo and Kosan mines, too.

A vigorous drive is going on at mines in other provinces including the February mine and the Sinwon mine which are surpassing the daily tunnelling plans by over 30 per cent with the goal of fulfilling the yearly plan before the sixth congress of the Workers Party of Korea scheduled for October this year. Through this drive many units have already carried out the first monthly plan.

As a result, raw materials are provided more sufficiently to the processing domain to normalize production at a high level.

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

RAILWAY TRANSPORT MAKING STRIDES IN NEW YEAR

SK211028 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 21 Jan 80 SK

[Text] Pyongyang January 21 (KCNA)--Upwards of one million tons of more freight than the norm were transported on our railways in the first 15 days of the new year.

The railway workers are now energetically waging "the drive to run safely, on schedule and with more freight for the implementation of the decision of the 18th plenary meeting of the fifth Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea."

The daily transport quotas are fulfilled at 120 per cent these days under the Chongjin railway administration. The Chongjin locomotive corps hauls 200 to 400 more tons of freight than the norm.

The Chongju locomotive corps under the Kaechon railway administration let all the rotating and specialized locomotives engaged in concentrated transport run with freight 1.3 to 1.5 times the norm, and 2 times at maximum. And the Kaechon locomotive corps is transporting more coal through a drive of hauling one or more extra wagon per locomotive.

The locomotive corps under the Pyongyang and Hamhung railway administrations are endeavouring to carry out their yearly transport plans before the 6th congress of the Workers Party of Korea scheduled in October.

A new turn is expected in transport this year through the improvement of its organisation and more thorough implementation of the policy of three methods of transport--concentrated, container and combined transportation. In railway transport continued spurs will be given to railway electrification to raise the proportion of electric traction to more than 85 per cent and modern and heavy means of transport be introduced and train operation be made highly speedy.

CSO: 4120

N. KOREA/ECONOMY

BRIEFS

INCREASED POWER OUTPUT--Pyongyang January 16 (KCNA)--The power output of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea last year was 114 percent up as against 1978. In 1978 it showed a 10 percent rise above the previous year. Our power industry fully meets the growing electric demands of the national economy. In the six-year plan period (1971-1976) the Unggi and Chongchong-gang thermal power plants with a capacity of 200,000 kw each were put into operation and the Pukchang thermal power plant was expanded into a gigantic power base with a capacity of 1,288,000 kw. With the construction of a host of hydraulic and thermal power stations, the power production target of 28,800 million kwh envisaged in the six-year plan was hit one year and four months ahead of schedule. In 1984, the last year of the new long-term plan, the nations annual power output will reach 56,000-60,000 million kwh. [Text] [SK161543 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT 16 Jan 80 SK]

CSO: 4120

N. KOREA/SOCIAL CONDITIONS

'KCNA': FREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE UNIVERSAL IN DPRK

SK171014 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 17 Jan 80 SK

[Text] Pyongyang January 17 (KCNA)--A universal free medical assistance system is in force in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

This system, unlike the free medical assistance through social insurance, is a most superior popular one under which all people are rendered necessary medical services any time and anywhere at state expense.

The state allots a large fund for the development of health services.

Before liberation there were only nine hospitals in our country. But today modern hospitals with specialized sections have been set up in every province, city, county and even rural village. Medical facilities are found everywhere people live.

And a great number of medical personnel have been trained. Our country is most advanced in the world in the number of therapeutic and prophylactic organs, hospital beds and doctors in proportion to the population.

The workers, peasants, office employees and other working people enjoy the benefit of the universal free medical assistance system at hospitals and clinics set up everywhere.

All medical services--the treatment of outpatients and inpatients, and home calls, and treatment in sanatoria--are free in our country.

The state bears not only the medical examination and doctors fees and the charges for medicines, but also food expenses during hospitalization and travelling expenses to and from sanatoria. It also fully guarantees the livelihood of the patients during the period of their medical treatment. Under the section doctor system, an advanced system of medical services, doctors call on sick persons for medical assistance.

In 1976 the death rate of the population fell to one-quarter compared with that before liberation and the average life span rose to 73 years.

During the new long-term plan period (1978-1984) the advanced section doctor system will be developed further to improve medical services for the working people.

In this period the number of the prophylactic and therapeutic collectives will increase 1.3 times, hospital beds more than 1.2 times, and doctors and assistant doctors will also increase markedly.

CSO: 4120

N. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

KIM IL-SONG EXCHANGES NEW YEAR GREETINGS WITH FOREIGN LEADERS

SK190430 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0400 GMT 19 Jan 80 SK

[Text] Pyongyang January 19 (KCNA)--The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea and president of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, exchanged New Years cards with party and state leaders of foreign countries on the occasion of the New Year 1980.

He received New Years cards from: Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao Peoples Revolutionary Party and premier of the Government of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic and president of the Standing Committee of the Peoples Supreme Council of the LPDR; Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, president of the Republic of India; Ziaur Rahman, president of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh; Spyros Kiprianou, president of the Republic of Cyprus; Siaka Probyn Stevens, president of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Gnassingbe Eyadema, chairman-founder of the Togolese Peoples Rally and president of the Republic of Togo; Ahmadou Ahidjo, president of the United Republic of Cameroon; Hilla Limann, president of the Republic of Ghana; Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Niger; Manuel Pinto da Costa, president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe; Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, leader of the Peoples National Congress of Guyana and prime minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Georges Andre Chevallaz, president of the Confederation of Switzerland; [as received]; and Olav the Fifth, king of Norway.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song sent New Years cards to them.

He also received New Years cards from Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Habib Bourguiba, president of the Republic of Tunisia; Aristides Pereira, president of the Republic of Cape Verde; Arthur Chung, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; A. N. Kosygin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Indira Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India; Pham Van Dong, premier of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and Truong Chinh, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

N. KOREA/FOREIGN RELATIONS

BRIEFS

VICE PREMIER IN SAN'A'--San'a', 12 January--DPRK Vice Premier Chong Chun-ki arrived here today on a visit of several days. The Korean official said he is carrying a message to Yemeni President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Korean President Kim Il-song dealing with the promotion of cooperative relations between the two countries and the common struggle against imperialism and its agents. The Korean official reiterated his country's constant support for the Arab people's struggle against colonialism and Zionism to regain their usurped land and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. [Text] [JN121322 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 12 Jan 80 JN]

BULGARIAN ART TROUPE--Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)--Comrade Kim Il and Premier Yi Chong-ok on January 19 met and had a friendly conversation with the leading personnel of the Ruse City childrens art troupe of Bulgaria headed by Ana Trichkova, general director of the centre of art circles of the cultural committee of the Bulgarian Peoples Republic. On hand were Comrade Kim Hwan, Comrade Yi Chang-son, Comrade Chi Chae-yong and personage concerned Hong Il-chon. Khristo Kelchev, Bulgarian ambassador to Korea, was also present. In the evening the central peoples committee arranged a banquet for the Ruse City childrens art troupe of Bulgaria. [Text] [SK200858 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 20 Jan 80 SK] Pyongyang January 20 (KCNA)--Cadres of our country on the evening of January 19 appreciated a performance given by the Ruse City childrens art troupes of Bulgaria at the peoples palace of culture. Invited to see the performance were Comrade Kim Il, Premier Yi Chong-ok, Comrade Kim Hwan, Comrade Yi Chang-son and personages concerned including Chi Chae-yong and Hong Il-chon. Working people and school children in the city also watched the performance. Appreciating the performance were Ambassador Khristo Kelchev and officials of the Bulgarian Embassy in Pyongyang. The colorful performance of the childrens art troupe was warmly received by the audience. At the end of the performance Korean cadres mounted the stage and presented a basket of flowers to the performers, congratulating them on their successful performance and posed for a photograph with them. [Text] [SK200901 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0832 GMT 20 Jan 80 SK]

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